

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-10 and 16-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 11-15 have been canceled. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and prompt early allowance are respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 1-10 and 16-25 are allowable. Claims 11-15 have been canceled in order to expedite the prosecution.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 6,073,097 to Gould *et al* (hereinafter "Gould"). Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gould in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,187 DeStefano *et al.* (hereinafter "DeStefano"). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gould in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,187 to Bellegarda et al.

Although, applicants traverse the rejections, these rejected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite the prosecution. Accordingly, these rejections are now moot and their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 and 16-25 are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner believes that any issues remain, he should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone

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number below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that are required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.19-2112 referencing MFCP 87508.

Respectfully submitted,

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